



## Hot issues addressed at Town Halls

### Garrison Town Hall meeting focuses on furloughs

By **RACHEL PONDER**

APG News

APG Garrison leadership addressed the workforce on possible furlough actions and more during the quarterly town hall meeting held at the post theater March 26.

Deputy Garrison Commander Glenn Wait said that on March 21 the Department of Defense announced that it would delay notices on civilian furloughs for two weeks to assess the budget impact of legislation approved by Congress. The

**See EFFECTS, page 10**



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

**With the specter of government furloughs weighing on everyone's minds, Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Owens talks about coping with setbacks spiritually during the Garrison Town Hall meeting at the post theater March 26.**

## SAAM events set for April

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**

APG News

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Team APG will host several events promoting prevention and awareness starting with the April 2 Day of Action. The full morning of events gets off to an early start with a 6:30 a.m. 5K Run/Walk starting from Fanshawe Field. After the walk, all are invited to view and sign the "Pledge to Intervene-Act-Motivate" (about 7:30 a.m.) and then help form the Team APG "Human Ribbon."

The official SAAM kickoff ceremony at the Post Theater follows at 10 a.m.

All events focus on promoting prevention and raising awareness according to 1st Lt. Raisa Velez, the Garrison's Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention (SHARP) victim advocate. Velez said that all APG service members, civilians, contractors and Family members are encouraged to participate in the kickoff events.

"We're asking that people wear or bring a teal or like-colored shirt [the official SAAM color] to wear for the human

**See SAAM, page 10**

## APG South Town Hall focuses on residents' issues

By **RACHEL PONDER**

APG News

A special town hall meeting was held at the APG South (Edgewood) recreation center March 20 for APG South residents.

The new Director of Freestate ChaleNGe Academy, Charlie Rose, briefed the audience about the program, which recently moved from APG North to APG South. Rose said that Freestate ChaleNGe Academy cadets are high school dropouts, ages 16-18. They voluntarily come to the program because they want a second chance at an education.

Rose said that the 17-month program

is operated by Maryland National Guard. For the first 22 weeks, cadets live at the academy in a residential program, a structured, disciplined, quasi-military environment. The program moved to APG South in December to align resources with the Maryland National Guard located on APG South.

"The cadets are monitored 24/7 by trained staff," he said. "Every minute of every day is accounted for," Rose said.

Rose added that during the residential phase, cadets are active in the community, and volunteer at least 40 hours before graduating from the program.

During the post-residential phase,

cadets are placed into jobs, continue their education or enter the military.

Rose said that it is important to note that these cadets are drug free, and have no pending court action, probation or indictment against them when they enter the program. Also, teens with felonies on their police record will not be admitted into the program.

"This is not a boot-camp program, no one is forced to come here by a judge," said the program's case manager Kevin Covington, who also attended the program.

**See SPECIAL, page 10**

## Women's Home Build Project set for May 11

By **LINDA PATRICK**

U.S. Army Public Health Command

The APG Federal Women's Program committee, along with the Maryland Tri-County Chapter of Federally Employed Women and Women in Defense, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, is seeking team members for a Women's Home Build project with the Harford Habitat for Humanity.

The Women's Home Build will take place May 6-11 at 743A Schofield Road in Aberdeen. APG volunteers – consisting of female active duty or retired military, civilians and contractors – will work 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the May 11 build. Volunteers can sign up for a specific shift and are not required to be present the entire day.

A mandatory safety training class starts each day and tools will be supplied. Volunteers will wear tool belts, sturdy work shoes, work gloves, safety glasses, a hard hat and a hammer. Some of the items

are supplied but are limited so workers are encouraged to bring their own.

Contact one of the following by April 8 to register or more information:

■ Linda Patrick, 410-436-1023, linda.d.patrick.civ@mail.mil;

■ Tracy Marshall, 410-861-4366, tracy.y.marshall.mil@mail.mil;

■ Sheryl Coleman, 410-278-5964, sheryl.l.coleman.civ@mail.mil;

■ Teresa Rudd, 410-436-5501, teresa.d.rudd.civ@mail.mil;

■ Capt. Maritzabel Mustafaa, 410-278-3000, maritzabel.mustafaa.mil@mail.mil;

■ Sgt. Shavonne Frank, 410-417-2374, shavonne.d.frank.mil@mail.mil; or

■ Diane Siler, 443-243-7344.

So Ladies, grab your female friends, your tool belts and hard hats, and give us a call!



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

## Dueling pianos and more

**Gloria Dent, the wife of CECOM/Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Kennis Dent, cracks up while holding the harmonica for Dan of the Dueling Pianos near the end of the song "Piano Man" during the March 23 show that drew hundreds to the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.**

### WEATHER

Thurs.



52°|32°

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http://ice.disa.mil/  
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### ONLINE

www.apg.army.mil  
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# Special APG South Town Hall addresses multiple issues

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Covington said that if a teen does run away, law enforcement will be notified immediately.

APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton said that the residents can obtain a copy of the program’s calendar of events by contacting Rose at 410-436-3318, or e-mailing him at rosec@mildep.org.

Rose added that he would like to hold an open house for residents in the near future, which will be advertised in the APG News, and on the installation’s social media outlets.

After Rose’s presentation, Chris Ferris, director of Emergency Services, briefed attendees and addressed concerns regarding post security. Ferris said

although some changes will be made to consolidate resources, police officers will continue to patrol both sides of the installation 24 hours a day. He added the safety and security of our Soldiers, civilians and their families is paramount.

The Director of Public Works, Tom Kuchar, also addressed resident concerns. Kuchar said that Picerne Military Housing responds to all reports received for brown water and partners with DPW to investigate and resolve all issues.

DPW addresses water issues outside the homes, while Picerne handles any issues inside of homes.

DPW flushes the water on a bi-weekly basis, and conducts monthly tests to

monitor the pH and chlorine levels in the water. Water is closely monitored and regular reports are sent to the state. Kuchar said DPW remains confident the water supply in APG, both North and South is safe. DPW and Picerne are committed to improving their processes and are following up on specific concerns raised at the town hall.

Residents are asked to open the faucets throughout the home after flushing to alleviate any build up of sediments in the line.

Kuchar said that APG residents are encouraged to immediately contact Picerne at 410-672-4071 or DPW at 410-436-3102 with any concern they might have regarding their water supply.

The APG community can also post

live comments on the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, system, at [www.ice.disa.mil](http://www.ice.disa.mil).

McClinton added that APG residents are also welcome to provide feedback during quarterly installation town hall meetings, which are broadcast via video teleconference and Comcast subscribers can watch the meeting on Channel 97. For questions about viewing installation town hall meetings, contact the Garrison Public Affairs Office at [usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.imcom.mbx.apg-pao@mail.mil). Upcoming town hall dates are advertised on the APG Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/APGMd](http://www.facebook.com/APGMd), Twitter, [twitter.com/USAGAPG](http://twitter.com/USAGAPG), and the APG website, [www.apg.army.mil/](http://www.apg.army.mil/).

# Effects of pending furlough discussed at Town Hall

Continued from Page 1

new target date to issue letters is April 5th. The delay means that furloughs could not begin until about May 6th and that the delayed notification might mean that the furloughed days might be fewer than the 22 days originally anticipated.

“We will not issue letters until we are told to issue letters,” Wait said. “We are hoping to have more information from our leaders.”

An attendee asked what effect the furloughs might have on security clearances if an individual has debt problems. APG Chief of Security Joe Kaffl said that financial issues are a consideration of security clearances.

Kaffl advised the audience to take a proactive approach with managing their personal finances. He said that employees should take a close look at their finances and if they cannot meet their bills should they be furloughed to cut unnecessary expenses as soon as possible.

Kaffl told the audience that employees who are struggling to meet their debt obligations should contact their creditors and consider seeking out a credible financial management service that might be able to negotiate a reduced payment plan with creditors.

“The worst thing an employee can do is stop paying, or



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

(From right) Glenn Wait, APG Deputy Garrison Commander holds the microphone as APG Security Chief Joe Kaffl responds to a question about how a government furlough might affect security clearances during the Garrison Town Hall Meeting at the Post Theater March 26.

walking away from a debt,” he said.

Kaffl said if an employee is facing debt problems and have specific issues they should call him at 410-278-9726 or e-mail [joseph.s.kaffl.civ@mail.mil](mailto:joseph.s.kaffl.civ@mail.mil).

Employees who have security clearances or restricted area badges have a requirement to report financial problems to his office if they are garrison employees or their security manager if they work for a tenant organization.

(For more information see the article on security clearances in the March 21 edition

of APG News, page 7.) Wait said that if employees have any questions or concerns about furloughs they should talk to their supervisors or call him at 410-278-1505 or e-mail [glenn.a.wait.civ@mail.mil](mailto:glenn.a.wait.civ@mail.mil).

“We will figure how to get through this together,” he said.

APG Garrison Command Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Owens talked to the audience about reevaluating priorities during times of financial difficulty. Owens said that individuals should contact their financial institutions and credible financial advisors for guidance.

Owens added that the Main Post Chapel has limited funds set aside for individuals with children who are struggling to afford to feed their Families.

The Main Post Chapel is also holding on-site information sessions called Operation Comfort, which addresses how to handle a financial crisis and how to maintain sound financial footing through the sequestration. APG organizations can request an information session by calling 410-278-4333.

The next town hall will be advertised on APG News, Channel 97, and APG’s social media websites. APG Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/APGMd](http://www.facebook.com/APGMd), Twitter, [twitter.com/USAGAPG](http://twitter.com/USAGAPG), and the APG website, [www.apg.army.mil/](http://www.apg.army.mil/).

# SAAM events planned

Continued from Page1

ribbon,” she said, “and that they stay for the official kickoff at the Post Theater.”

The following day, April 3, the Main Post Chapel hosts a breakfast forum/discussion themed, “It’s Time to Talk About It,” with counselors, social workers, and members of the Army Substance Abuse Program leading discussions about coping mechanisms, communication techniques and the link between alcohol and drug use and sexual assault.

“These will be important and relevant information-sharing discussions that could one day aid you in helping a friend or family member,” Velez said. “Everyone can learn from these events.”

**Other events throughout April include:**

April 4: Screening of “The Invisible War” at the Post Theater, 1 p.m.

April 10: Installation SHARP Training at the Post Theater, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

April 16: Screening of “The Invisible War” at Bldg., E2800, APG South (Edge-wood), 1 p.m.

April 18: “Sex Signals” (Improv Show). Seating is limited; tickets distributed at MWR ticket booth, 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Note: Mature audiences only. This show contains adult language and themes related to sexual activity and relationships that may be offensive to some.

April 23: Self Defense Class & Empowerment Fair, Main Post Chapel, noon to 1:30 p.m.

April 24: Honor Denim Day

For more information, contact 1st Lt. Raisa Velez, Garrison SHARP victim advocate, at 410-306-2813, [raisa.v.velez.mil@mail.mil](mailto:raisa.v.velez.mil@mail.mil) ual

# Leave Donations

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency).

For info, contact Cathy Davis at 410-306-0152 or [cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil](mailto:cathy.a.davis4.civ@mail.mil).

## Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Lamar-Reevey, Kellie	Luce, Robert	Ramaglia, Vanesa
Pintilie, Jamie	Dull, Francis	Rogers, Theodore
Smith, Riquita	Rodriguez, Pedro	Sumic, Angie
Solomon, Je’Neane	Blair, Carolyn	Holmes, Kathleen
Woodard, Tammy	Meadows, Joy	Watters, Karen
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Moore, Carolyn	Mason, Tonya	Park, Jessica
Aleszczyk, Edward	Digan, Margaret	Smith, Deborah R.
Clybourn, Angela	Nolan, Benjamin	Venet, Samantha
Szymanski, Ron	Best, Anja	Patrick, Linda
Winne, Janeen	Bialkowski, Thomas	Kaley, Jessica
McClintick, Jill	Burke, Roosevelt	Robinson, Jennifer
Smith, Deborah	Clardy, Mark	
Harkins, Christopher	Dunn, Paul	

# APG SNAPSHOT

A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>.



## CSI FAMILY NIGHT

(From left) Marisol Macias, Mia Vickers and Shelly Vickers do an activity that uses simulated blood to test for blood types during CSI Family Night held at the APG South youth center March 22. Volunteer Heidi Hoard-Fruchey, from MRICD, assisted children and their parents with several CSI-themed activities.



Photos by Rachel Ponder

(From left) Sokhom Phann and her daughter Alice Phann, 9, examine finger prints during CSI Family Night at the APG South youth center March 22. Children who attend the youth center were challenged to find out who stole Facility Director Renee Main’s lunch by using clues found at different stations.



## DUELING PIANOS

(From left) Pulled out of the audience and costumed like Elton John, Michael Lupacchino, APG director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, plays along with Noel of the Dueling Pianos during the March 23 concert at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson



Photo by Rachel Ponder

## “LIVING LAST SUPPER” DEPICTS LAST NIGHT OF CHRIST

During the Aberdeen Proving Ground Holy Week observance members of the Protestant service performed The Living Last Supper, March 24 at the Main Post Chapel. The play is based on the famous Leonardo da Vinci painting depicting Jesus Christ’s last night with his disciples before his crucifixion. The Holy Week celebration will conclude with a sunrise service on Easter Sunday with a play depicting Christ’s resurrection. The event will be held on March 31 6:30 a.m. behind the Top of the Bay.

STREET TALK

What are your favorite money saving tips?

For entertainment, I go to free events advertised on the Harford County events website (<http://www.harfordmd.com/harford-county-maryland-events>).



Mary Beth Maahs  
CPAC

I also use coupons at the grocery store and at restaurants. I want to start using Groupon ([www.groupon.com](http://www.groupon.com)). My mom saved a bunch of money by getting deals on that website.

I like to shop at discount stores like Marshalls and T.J. Maxx where you can get designer brands sold in department stores for less money. I also love outlet shopping!



Dr. Victoria Dixon  
ATEC

I am a member of Costco (a membership warehouse) where I buy nonperishable items, like pasta, canned goods and toiletries in bulk.



Spc. Kevin Laitipaya  
MRICD

I look at the unit price and determine how much I am paying per ounce. I have a large Family, so I buy in bulk often. I compare prices at other stores and shop during the middle of the week, when stores tend to have the best deals. I also network with likeminded shoppers. We share information about sales and coupons. I have a big pantry and freezer so I can stock up on items if they are sale. My motto is, buy it when it is the price you want to pay, not when you need it.



Anthony Thorpe  
CHRA

OPINION

Be thankful every day for small ‘commas of life’

Recently, I’ve had several reminders of how fragile life is; I was cruising along with the near-boredom of a humdrum existence—doing the same things day after day. I complained about little things like the folks at McDonald’s taking 90 seconds to fill my order instead of 60 seconds, waiting a few extra moments for someone to move through the crosswalk or take off at a green light.



I was cranky about the everyday sameness of my life and fussed about minor things like my husband leaving his dirty glass on a coffee table, a visitor parking her car in “my” space or the daily calls I get from people asking for information that is routinely available in other places.

Granted, as an editor, I spend a good deal of time weighing items that many would consider picayune: semi-colons or commas? Quotation marks or underscore? Serif or sans serif fonts? Even when I’m reading for my own pleasure, I get bogged down sometimes because an author used the wrong tense or a publisher used a homonym for the correct word.

And don’t even get me started on my pet peeve—misplaced modifiers! My co-workers can attest to the fits I throw when I discover a misplaced modifier in submitted copy. I can get so distracted I may even miss the meat and potatoes of good information in the text.

In my defense, I get paid to catch the sort of errors others may think are silly. That’s my expertise.

But last year, a dear friend drowned mysteriously while scuba diving and no explanation has been proffered. He was a retired military pilot, a seasoned boater and a very experienced diver. He was always safety conscious, was diving with a partner and doing everything right. He got separated from his dive buddy and disappeared; his body washed up on shore hours later. His autopsy found no evidence of stroke, heart attack or other plausible reason for a sudden cessation of respirations. His equipment was intact, his tanks had air and everything was operating correctly.

But he is gone nevertheless.

Another friend’s husband was diagnosed with cancer and died a few short months later.

As much as I empathized with those wives whose husbands were suddenly gone, I have to admit that neither event drastically altered my day-to-day routine. I still complained about slow service, inconsiderate drivers and clueless customers.

Until mid-December when it was my husband who was suddenly faced with a diagnosis that could have proven fatal without prompt intervention.

Even though I had known for years he might face dialysis, when his kidneys failed and decisions had to be made quickly, I felt like the world was spinning way too fast. It had been so easy to toss around information, quote stats and discuss treatment options when it was an intellectual, no-personal-stake conversation. It was a whole ‘nother thing when it was my life, my security, my partner’s health deteriorating quickly.

Once decisions were made, more events followed closely on the heels of the first crisis. Surgery was effected, a catheter established and healing began; then it was time to learn how to perform home peritoneal dialysis.

A month later, his health is improv-

ing while my stamina is flagging due to sleep deprivation. The nine-hour treatments often involve alarms from the cyclor machine and they must be resolved before the dialysis can continue. It’s a lot like getting up for 3 a.m. feedings with infants.

On top of it, many of the tasks involved in the daily treatment must be accomplished under sterile conditions to prevent a life-threatening infection. So I’ve learned proper handwashing technique, how to don surgical gloves and masks and make tubing connections with very limited exposure to air.

Initially, I was tempted to say ‘this is too hard’ but quickly I remembered my recently widowed friends and began counting my blessings.

I am so fortunate that the technology is available to artificially perform the functions of healthy kidneys. I am so fortunate that intervention came in time.

I am so fortunate that my spouse of 44 years is still alive and kicking (even if he is occasionally a pain in the butt).

I am so fortunate that I have the opportunity to wait an extra 30 seconds for my food, to be patient with inconsiderate drivers and help others looking for information.

I’ve decided that while my humdrum life is gone for good, dialysis is a pretty small price to pay for the life I can still share with the big lug who gets my birthday wrong, forgets Valentine’s Day, and steals the covers.

But those are just the commas of life—and I’m promising to focus on the wonderful text!

Maureen Rose

Gold Standard Acting Editor

Originally published in the Ft. Knox Gold Standard, Ft. Knox, KY

What’s holding up your car?

Saturday was my day for making repairs on my car, and I’d been having problems with my old, rusty brake rotors. Every time I’d hit the brakes, the steering wheel would vibrate. I wanted to put an end to that, so I bought some good slotted and drilled replacement rotors. I gathered all the tools I needed - including a jack, wrenches, sockets and screwdrivers - and went to my garage to get started. I’d changed rotors on several cars in the past, so I basically knew how to do it.

The first thing I did was loosen the lug nuts on the wheel and raise the car with the new hydraulic jack I’d bought. Then, I took off the wheel and placed it beside the car so I could begin removing the brake caliper. After I got it off, the phone rang inside the house and I got up to answer it. After talking on the phone for about five minutes, I went back out to the garage and was surprised by what I saw. The jack had failed and one side of the car was sitting on the floor! I could see where hydraulic fluid had leaked out of the jack.

Luckily, the car was resting on the jack’s body so nothing was damaged.

I was shocked. When I got over my surprise, I used a different jack to raise the car again and finished replacing the rotors. As soon as I finished, I bought a couple of jack stands and a new hydraulic jack.

I learned a valuable lesson that day. I’d realized that safety isn’t just for when you’re on the road; it also applies when you’re doing repairs. Since then, whenever I work on my car, I use the jack stands as fail-safes and, for extra measure, place a wheel beneath the car.

Thinking back on that day, I could only imagine what would’ve happened had I been under the car. Had the jack failed then, I would’ve been injured or possibly even killed. I’d always heard stories about how dangerous it could be to work on your vehicle, but I’d never thought something like this could happen to me. After all, my hydraulic jack was new. I’d trusted it - but it failed.

I now take all the proper safety precautions to protect myself and others when

I work on my vehicles. I would encourage anyone else who does their own auto repairs to plan for safety in the process. After all, should your jack suddenly “get the drop on you,” the last place you want to be is underneath 3,000 pounds of car.

By The Numbers -

If you think what happened to the author is a rare event, you’re wrong. Since 2007, there have been several reported off-duty and on-duty accidents where jacks and jack stands were either used improperly or failed. The off-duty accidents injured four Soldiers and killed a fifth when his vehicle fell off a jack and landed on top of him. The on-duty accidents included a Soldier performing maintenance on the front brake caliper of an M1114. The Soldier, who was reportedly using “bottle jacks,” was pinned beneath the vehicle and killed when it fell on him.

Durand Durga

Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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# Kaltenbacher wins two prestigious awards

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
*APG News*

Last year, the APG Garrison dedicated the Women’s Research and Development Memorial Garden at Bldg. 305 – the first of its kind in the Army - during Women’s History Month. This year, the behind-the-scenes work that went into the event has been recognized with two prestigious awards.



**Kaltenbacher**

Terri Kaltenbacher, the Community Relations Officer in the Garrison Public Affairs Office and the lead organizer behind the event recently won two Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Competition awards for her work on the project. Kaltenbacher won second place in the Community Relation category at the Installation Management Command level and then advanced to the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Department of the Army-level competition in the Individual Achievement category where she placed third Army-wide.

Kelly Luster, Garrison Public Affairs Officer, put Kaltenbacher’s achievement in perspective,

“Having spent a significant part of my military career in public affairs, I believe the Community Relations entries are more difficult to prepare and considerably harder to win,” Luster said, noting that he’s competed in print, broadcast and community relations.

“COMREL activities by their nature may take longer to plan, execute and evaluate the outcomes and some programs or events take months if not longer to see the success and dividends of the program.

“The significance of Terri’s award is that she has been judged as one of the best among her peers from across the Army and specifically in Community Relations,” he said.

Each year the KLTW competition recognizes Soldiers and Department of the Army civilian employees for excellence in furthering the objectives of the Department of the Army Public Affairs program. The Secretary of the Army sponsors the competition and the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts judging with a goal of ensuring the best internal information efforts receive recognition for professional excellence and outstanding achievement.



File photo

**The Women’s Memorial garden plaque next to the APG Garrison Headquarters praises women contributions in research, science and technology. “A grateful nation honors your outstanding achievements,” it reads.**

“We are all very proud of Terri’s success in winning this competition,” Luster said. She is truly an asset to this office, the garrison and APG.”

The 2012 celebration, led by Kaltenbacher and called “Women in Bloom,” included the unveiling of a memorial garden plaque dedicating the garden to APG women of achievement in research, science and technology. Special guests included Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, who flew in to deliver the keynote address, and Winifred “Wink” Jonas of Aberdeen, one of the original programmers of the ENIAC, the world’s first computer that was used for ballistic calculations at the former Ballistics Research Laboratory.

Noting that “no one wins awards like this individually,” Kaltenbacher said that a “dedicated team” of individuals on APG and in the surrounding community “stepped forward to make the idea a reality.”

She specifically cited Dr. Deidre DeRoia of the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division who

planned the garden portion of the project.

“Winning this prestigious DA-level communications award is quite an honor,” Kaltenbacher said. “It segues perfectly with this year’s Women’s History Month Theme: Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination.”

She said the most important accomplishment of the project is that the heightened awareness of the initiatives and accomplishments of APG women of the past serves to inspire those of the present and future.

“The Women in Bloom Memorial Garden recognizes those trailblazing females at APG whose STEM skills advanced our nation’s defense. They were infamously underpaid and their accomplishments were historically overlooked compared to their male counterparts,” she said. “The monument, in its own small way, pays tribute to their efforts and vital contributions toward forging women’s current opportunities in the workplace.

“According to our research, no other installation in the country has a similar memorial.”

# Health fair provides information, free screenings and more

Story and photo by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
*APG News*

More than 280 people attended the health fair hosted by Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the Community Health Promotion Council at the APG North recreation center March 20.

The fair featured demonstrations from 48 organizations. Free screenings included vision, blood pressure, body fat analysis, spinal scans and more. Health professionals were on hand to talk about diabetes, ergonomics, dental health, tobacco cessation, heart disease, physical therapy, nutrition and more. A number of vendors emphasized relaxation and stress management, including a vendor that offered tips on meditation. The event also included mini massages and giveaways.

Claire Allen from AMSAA said that she appreciated that the on-post event was convenient, something she could attend during her lunch hour.

“Health screenings are important, you know that you should do them but you don’t always do them,” she said. “It is helpful to be able to find this information all in one place.”

“I enjoyed talking to health care professionals who are knowledgeable in the latest breakthroughs in medicine,” added attendee Lawanda Mason from PEO C3T.

APG Health Promotion Officer Wendy LaRoche said that vendors were added based on feedback from surveys from previous health fairs. The event encourages attendees to take a proactive approach to their health.

“The health fair is another way that APG continues to take care of the community,” she said. “It’s important that our community takes advantage of the services that we are providing. In times of financial crisis, it’s easy to overlook your health, as your mind is more focused on your finances. You may overlook going to your annual office visit, so providing the free screenings is a cost-effective way of making sure your health is okay. We are committed to reaching everyone.”

In addition to health information, a few vendors provided financial



**Tim Russell, from Gold Medal Physical Therapy, conducts a functional movement screening for Claire Allen from AMSAA during a health fair held in the APG recreation center March 20.**

**“In times of financial crisis, it’s easy to overlook your health, as your mind is more focused on your finances. You may overlook going to your annual office visit, so providing the free screenings is a cost-effective way of making sure your health is okay.”**

**Wendy LaRoche**  
Title APG Health Promotion Officer

information.

“We wanted to make sure that if anyone missed the financial forums that have occurred on the installation, that they had an additional chance to talk to someone one-on-one,” LaRoche said.

LaRoche thanked Sue Singh, KUSAHC’s public health nurse for organizing the health fair.

“Without her we could not have accomplished the success that the health fair brought due to her attention to detail,

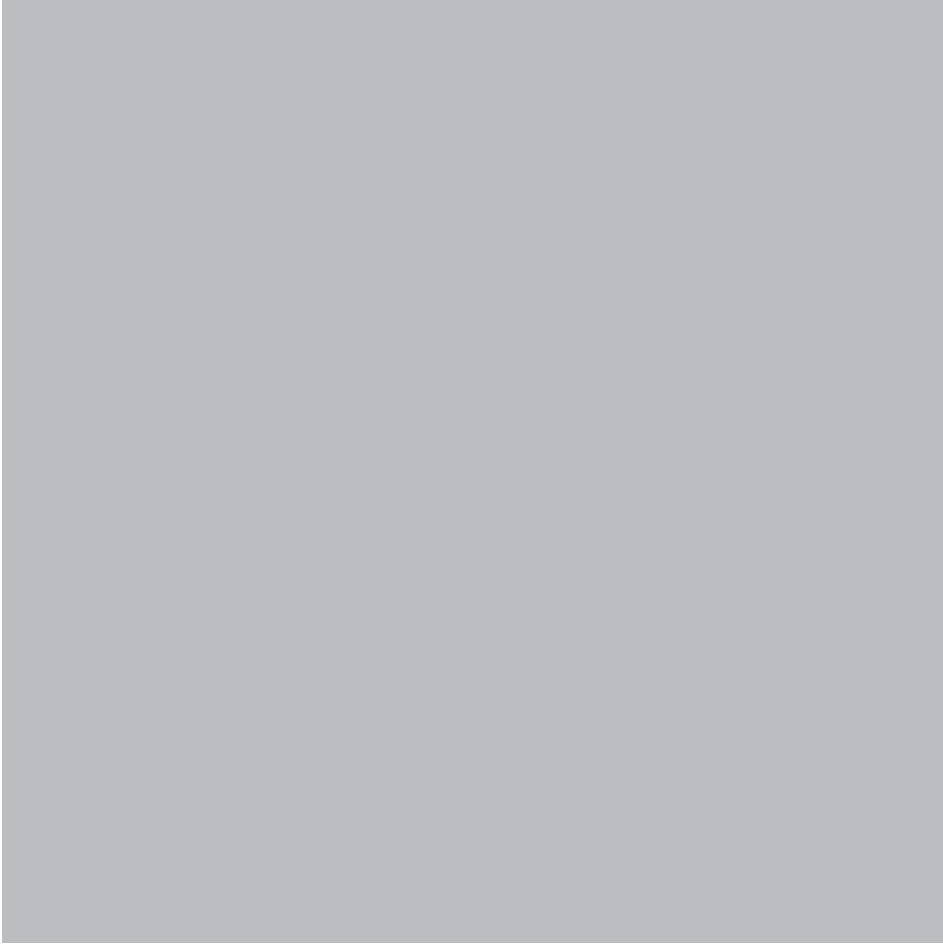
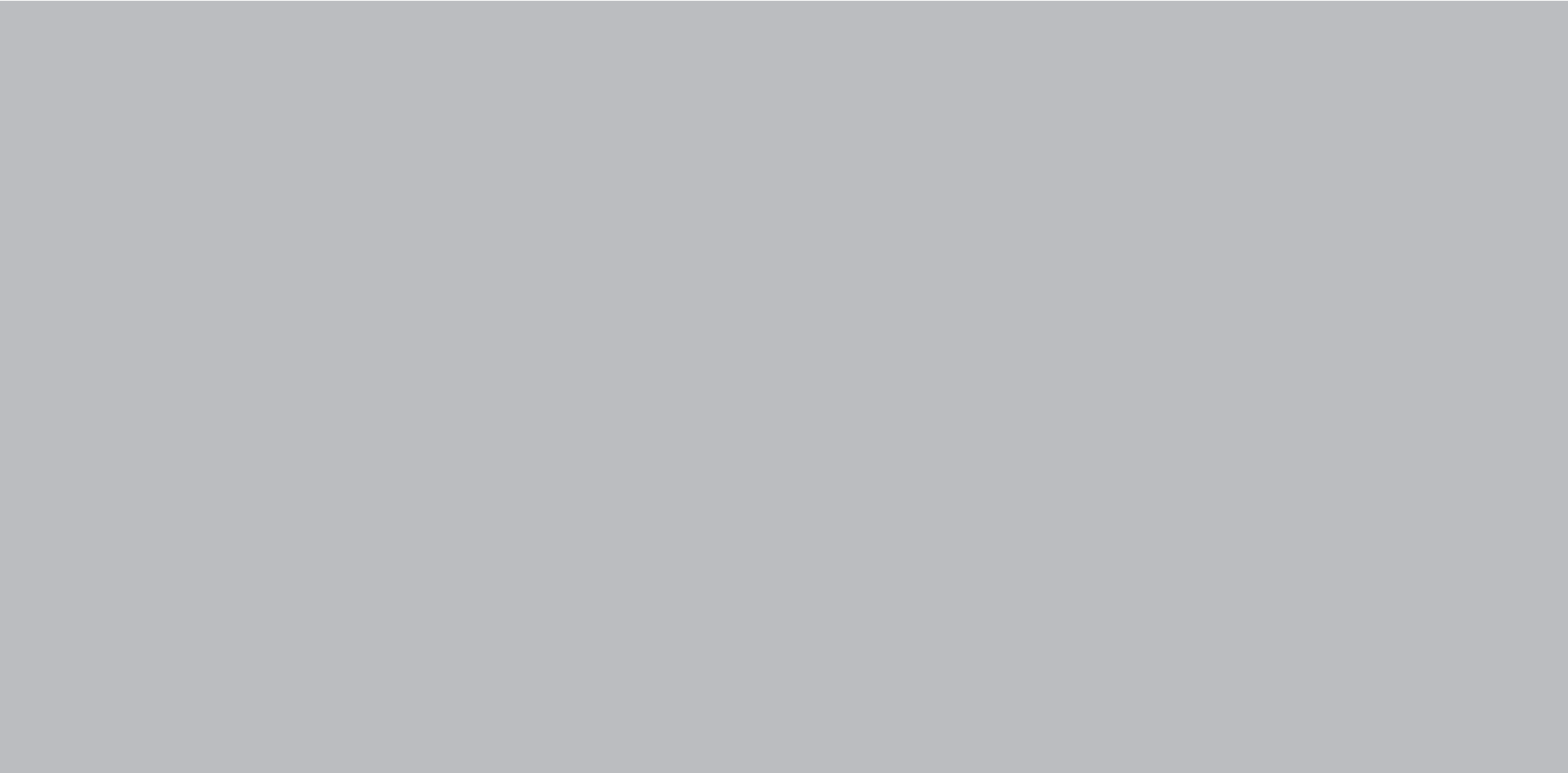
organizational skills and avidness to help the community at large,” she said.

LaRoche said that this year APG is offering numerous health fairs. The next event is the Relaxation and Resiliency Fair to be held on April 16 at the Mallette Mission Training Facility, Bldg. 6008 in room 10B from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fair will offer massage and chiropractic services, as well as stress, financial, and anger management information, along with acupuncture, reflexology, hypnosis, physical therapy and fitness information. For more information call Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7910.

There will also be an Empowerment Fair on April 23 at the APG Main Chapel from noon to 1 p.m., which will feature self defense techniques and is in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Health fairs are free, confidential and open to all. Tenant organizations interested in participating in health fairs should contact LaRoche at 410-417-2312.






# Holy Season worship schedule

**17 Feb ~ 31 Mar 2013**

<b>APG North Chapel</b> (Aberdeen)	<b>APG South Chapel</b> (Edgewood)
<b>CATHOLIC</b>	<b>CATHOLIC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fri 29 Mar, 3 p.m., Veneration of Cross</li><li>• Sat 30 Mar, 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass</li><li>• Sun 31 Mar, 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thur 28 Mar, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday</li><li>• Fri 29 Mar, 3 p.m., Good Friday</li><li>• Sun 31 Mar, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday</li></ul>
<b>PROTESTANT</b>	<b>PROTESTANT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sun 31 Mar, 10:15 a.m., Easter Sunday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sun 31 Mar, 9:15 a.m., Easter Sunday</li></ul>
<b>GOSPEL</b>	<b>“THE DRAMA OF EASTER”</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sun 31 Mar, noon, Easter Sunday</li></ul>	<p>31 Mar 2013, 0630</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Behind Top of the Bay</p> <p>Join us afterwards for a continental breakfast at Top of the Bay</p> <p><b>JEWISH HOLY DAYS</b></p> <p><b>PASSOVER:</b> 25 Mar to 2 Apr (Community Seder 26 Mar)</p> <p><b>POC:</b> Col. Jonas Vogelhut, 443-619-2304</p>



**Renee Main** APG South (Edgewood) youth center director

**Renee Main** is the facility director for the APG South (Edgewood) youth center

Main has worked for Child Youth and School Service for 22 years in a number of positions.


As facility director, her daily duties include managing a staff of eight, cooking healthy meals and snacks for children who attend the center, clerical work, maintaining partnerships with off post organizations like the 4-H Club, Boys and Girls Club of America, and more.

Main said that although her job requires a significant amount of paperwork and meetings, she enjoys the time that she spends instructing children. Main has a Bachelors of Science degree in elementary education and minors in recreation and sociology. Although she worked as a school teacher for three years, she considers youth recreation her true calling.

“I get to teach without the formality,” she said. “My favorite part of the job is working with the youth and seeing them grow and mature. I have fun teaching them new things and seeing them achieve.”

CYSS provides activities for youth ages 5-18 in a safe and friendly environment. The youth center provides recreation activities, before and after school care, and a full day of camp during the summer.

The APG South youth center is located in Bldg. E1902 on Scully Road, past the golf course at the Route 755 gate entrance. Main can be reached by phone 410-436-2862, or by e-mail at [renee.s.main.naf@mail.mil](mailto:renee.s.main.naf@mail.mil). The center’s hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. “The staff works split schedule during the day so please call before visiting youth center,” Main said.



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we can improve, or provide kudos for great service, via the Interactive Customer Evaluation system at <http://ice.disa.mil/>. Click “Army” then “Aberdeen Proving Ground.” Or check us out on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/HzQlow>. View the QR code to visit us immediately.

# Mark Your Calendar

**THURSDAY**  
**MARCH 28**  
**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS**

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. The community is invited to a brain injury awareness event, presented by some of the most esteemed experts in the field of adult, child, and sports-related brain injuries. The event is set at the post theater from 1 to 4 p.m., and everyone is welcome. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

**MONDAY**  
**APRIL 1**  
**SPRING SPIES**

Search for the clues that spring is here at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Meet several creatures that are just waking from a cozy winters' rest, and create a craft to ring in spring. This program will be held 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 7 to 12. The cost is \$10 and online registration is required at [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org).

For information or directions to center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 2**  
**THE GIVING TREE**

Explore and learn what special gifts trees and plants give at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Hike the shoreline and forest, create a tree ID book, and sample treats from the trees. This program will be held 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 7 to 12. The cost is \$10 and online registration is required at [www.otterpointcreek.org](http://www.otterpointcreek.org).

For information or directions to center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**MAKE VISION A HEALTH PRIORITY**

Vision is an important, but often overlooked, part of overall health. Despite the preventable nature of some vision problems, many people do not receive recommended screenings and exams.

The CECOM Wellness Program will host a Vision Informational Session, where Sue Unger, PAHM I National Account Manager, United Healthcare Vision, Federal Employee Dental & Vision Insurance Program will provide useful information and tips on how to maintain and/or rebuild optimal eye health.

Location: Myer Auditorium, Building 6000 from noon to 1:00 pm.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 3**  
**LESSONS OF THE HEART OR HOW TO LOVE YOUR HEART!**

Discussion Points Include Heart Aches (Disease) and the Dietary Approach to Stopping Hypertension (DASH). This event will be held in room A 105, ATEC HQ, Building 2202 from noon to 1 pm. For more information call 443-861-9260

**WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL**  
**STARTING APRIL 3**  
**QUIT AND/OR STAY-QUIT FROM USING TOBACCO SESSIONS**

Do you want to learn about strategies to quit using tobacco? Are you a quitter who is feeling stressed and thinking about smoking again? Join a casual Lunch-n-Learn group to discuss strategies to make and sustain behavior change, understand stress triggers, identify new coping skills and relaxation techniques and how to eat a healthier diet. Each session will be geared to the needs of those present. Attendance at all classes is not required. Location: Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, 3rd Floor Conference Room. noon to 12:45 p.m. Call Ann Laughton, PHN, at 410-278-1774 for more information.

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 6**  
**COMMUNITY YARD SALE**

MWR will bring in spring with Community Yard Sales in April, May and June.

The APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, will host the first two events Saturday, April 6 and May 4 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables and chairs will be provided. All items being sold must be clean and in working condition. Table reservation fees are: Indoor (ballroom) - \$20 for one/\$35 for two 6-foot tables; Outdoor (patio) - \$15 for one/\$25 for two 6-foot tables.

The APG South (Edgewood) recreation center, Bldg. E4140, will host the June 1 event, also 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a table call 410-278-4011/4907.

**SUNDAY – TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 7 - 9**  
**COMMISSARY CLOSURES**

The APG Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has announced early and full closure hours for the upcoming reset. The store will close early, 4 p.m., Sunday, April 7. The store will remain closed April 8 and 9 and reopen Wednesday, April 10.

For more information contact Store Manager Tammy Spickler at 410-278-7561.

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 9**  
**ALCOHOL AWARENESS SCREENINGS**

April marks Alcohol Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign intended to raise awareness of the health and social problems that excessive alcohol consumption can cause for individuals, their families, and their communities. Excessive drinking is a dangerous behavior for both men and women.

The CECOM Wellness Program invites you to take part in Alcohol Awareness Screenings conducted by the APG Army Substance Abuse Program. Stop by to receive a free screening, useful information, advice, and more.

Location: MTF Lobby, Building 6008, from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information call 443-861-7910.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 10**  
**EXECUTIVE QUALIFICATIONS**

CECOM Deputy Commander Gary Martin will give a class on Executive Core Qualifications for GS-14/15 and other pay system equivalents who are interested in developing a career in the Senior Executive Service (SES). The class will be held in the Mission Training Facility, MTF Bldg. 6008, Room 3, from 1-3 p.m. The class holds 30 personnel so sign up soon at <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=145821&k=036547017956>. For more information, visit the APG Senior Manager Association at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/apgsr-manager-group>.

**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 11**  
**FLYING SOLO FOR SINGLES INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

The CECOM Wellness Program invites all singles to attend the Flying Solo for Singles Informational Session. As a single person, a financial road map and a team of trusted advisors will make the difference to your financial well-being. In this session, Michelle Rackey, ChFEBC, Executive Director GEBA, will discuss the unique financial needs of singles. Location: Myer Auditorium, Building 6000, from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information call 443-861-7910.

**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 10-11**  
**SPRING-TASTIC DATES**

The 2013 "Spring-Tastic" Bazaar has been rescheduled for April 10-11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg 3326. There will be live entertainment by Matt Kineke. The event features arts and crafts, home décor, bags and purses, jewelry, gift items, baked goods and more! Free Samples! Door prizes include a Kindle Fire 8.9. Visit <http://apgmwr.com/images/events2/2013SpringBazaar3.pdf> for information, or call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011.

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 13**  
**D.C. CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual two-week event that celebrates springtime in Washington, D.C. as well as the 1912 gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

Attend one of Washington's most exciting traditions. Cost is \$32 per person and the bus departs Aberdeen at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m.

The parade runs 10 a.m. - noon, rain or shine. Enjoy this longstanding Washington tradition featuring floats, balloons, marching bands and other family entertainment.

Space is limited. Reserve your seats today.

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 16**  
**C4ISR RESILIENCY/ RELAXATION FAIR**

With the stresses of the tax season, the uncertainty of sequestration, as well as gas and food prices fluctuating, the CECOM Wellness Program and the C4ISR Wellness Committee will hold the first C4ISR Resiliency/Relaxation Fair. Massage and chiropractic services; stress, financial, and anger management information; as well as acupuncture, reflexology, hypnosis, physical therapy, and fitness information will be offered.

Representatives from Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic's Behavioral Health, The APG Wellness Center, Army Substance Abuse Program, and APG Family and Morale Welfare & Recreation, along with the APG Federal Credit Union, Freedom Federal Credit Union, Harford County-Dept of Community Affairs, and other local health professional will be in attendance to answer questions and about their services. Location: MTF, Building 6008-Multipurpose Room 10B, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information call 443-861-7910.

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

The Team APG Holocaust Committee will present the annual Days of Remembrance observance 10 a.m. at the Main Post Theater.

The guest speaker, Holocaust Survivor Sam Ponzak, will speak on the theme: "Never Again; Heeding the Warning Signs."

The National Days of Remembrance are April 7-14.

For more information, contact Sheryl Coleman, ARL, 410-278-5961; Tracy Marshall, CECOM EOA, 443-861-4366; or Linda Patrick, USAPHC, 410-436-1023.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 17**  
**LIVING HEALTHY, LIVING WELL**

Author Phyllis Bullins will present maintenance tips for folks engaged in a weight loss plan or those who are considering beginning one. This is an opportunity to speak to the woman who wrote the book on achieving a healthy weight and improving the quality of your life. The event will be held in room A 101, ATEC HQ, Building 2202, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For more information call 443-861-9260.

**SPRING TECHNOLOGY EXPO**

ECBC/CIO will host the 2013 spring technology Expo 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center, Bldg. 3326, Erie Street. About 500 to 600 people regularly attend the biannual event that features the latest innovations in state-of-the-art technologies from vendors such as Allied Electronics; Dell Inc.; Lexmark; Motorola Solutions; Tektronix; Blind Industries & Services of Maryland; Xerox; and much more.

Attendance is free and open to all active duty, DOD, and contractor personnel with access to APG.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Mary McCully, ECBC/CIO Acquisition Team at 410-436-2626, [mary.p.mccully.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mary.p.mccully.civ@mail.mil); or Donna Flemister, Federal Direct Access, 410-531-8559, [donna@fdaexpo.com](mailto:donna@fdaexpo.com).

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 23**  
**HANDLING CONFLICT IN THE WORKPLACE AND PRESCRIPTION TAKE BACK**

Workplaces are naturally stressful environments and personal conflicts between co-workers can be both a cause and product of this stress. Allowing stress to intensify will only further cripple the work environment. In this session, Anne Healy, Federal Employee Program Account Executive, BlueCross BlueShield, will discuss how recognizing the problem and taking positive action can help solve the problem and make the office a place where you want to go each day.

Location: Myer Auditorium, Building 6000, from noon to 1 pm.

The APG Prescription/Over-the-Counter Take-Back Campaign kicks off Monday, April 22 through Friday, April 26. Please bring any expired, unused, and unwanted prescription (RX) drugs and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines to the Myer Auditorium Lobby, Bldg. 6000, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 24**  
**NUTRITION & OBESITY PREVENTION: WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE U.S.? WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?**

Jennifer Mayer, Community Health Advocate from Johns Hopkins Priority Partners, will be the guest speaker. She will address portion sizes, FDA recommendations (My Plate) and exercise as well as provide dramatic visual aids and cooking tips. This event will be held in room A 105, ATEC HQ, Bldg. 2202 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information call 443-861-9260

**ONGOING**  
**THROUGH APRIL 11**  
**2013 ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND INSTALLATION TAX PROGRAM**

APPOINTMENTS REMAIN AVAILABLE FOR SIMPLE TAX PREPARATION

Tax preparation will consist of SIMPLE tax returns and will be prepared by APPOINTMENT ONLY through the remainder of the tax season which will conclude on APRIL 11, 2013.

Eligible clients interested in simple tax preparation will be required to visit the CSD office located in building 4305, third floor, room 317, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. only, for a complete review of the individual's tax documents. Upon review of all documents, CSD staff will provide the individual with a scheduled appointment or referral to other professional tax agencies. Tax preparation will not be provided at the time of the document review or without a scheduled appointment.

Appointments will be made on a first-come, first-scheduled basis until no appointments are available. Appointments will not be scheduled over the phone.

Inquiries regarding income tax services may be directed to the CSD staff attendant at 410-278-1583. Calls after normal operating hours, or received when the attendant is assisting other clients, will be directed to the automated information line.

**APRIL 12 DEADLINE**  
**MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CLUB (MCCC) ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The MCCC scholarship application window is now open. Go to [www.apgmccc.org](http://www.apgmccc.org) and click on the scholarship tab to view eligibility, necessary documents and other application requirements. Deadline is April 12.

For more information, call 410-306-6898.

**MONDAYS**  
**APG THEATER GROUP**  
**SEEKING MEMBERS**

Need more drama in your life? More laughs? Want to improve your public speaking skills, or learn how to look 10 years younger instantly? Then the APG Theater workshops are for you. The classes are geared to assist anyone in bringing out their best while performing, interacting one-on-one, or speaking before a small group. Find out what your body language is saying, but what your words are revealing.

Classes run for approximately four weeks, and are held every other Monday at 5 p.m. in the APG North recreation center ballroom. A certificate of participation is presented at the end of the class.

The workshop is free, and dates and times are subject to change.

If interested, stop by the APG North or South recreation centers during regular business hours to fill out a registration form, email [patricia.a.devine6.naf@mail.mil](mailto:patricia.a.devine6.naf@mail.mil), or call 410-278-9451.

**MARCH 27 - APRIL 7**  
**CIRCUS TIME**

Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus Presents DRAGONS at the 1st Mariner Arena, Baltimore. Tickets are \$16.75 (opening day), and \$19.25 all ages. Get your tickets at the MWR Leisure Travel Services in the APG North recreation center, Bldg 3326. For information, call 410-278-4011/4907.



**MORE ONLINE**  
More events can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/calendar](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/calendar).

# Wearable solutions an easy fix for Joint Service Airmen Mask program

ECBC Communications

Protective equipment is an essential part of any Warfighters’ uniform. During the Desert Storm and Desert Shield conflicts, the protective mask and hood that were part of the Mission Oriented Protective Posture presented comfort, thermal, thirst, bodily waste, and claustrophobia issues for flight crews. Every service across the Department of Defense was facing similar issues.

In order to address these concerns, the Joint Service Airmen Mask program was initiated. Within the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center’s Protection Engineering Division, Don Kilduff, the program manager (PM) for the JSAM Apache mask system, and Jon Sampson, the deputy for the JSAM Rotary Wing mask system, have been working on solutions to mitigate these issues by providing a new design that allows flight-crews to don and dock their masks in-flight in a matter of seconds without removing their helmets. This is accomplished by designing a removable face plate that can easily attach and detach from the hood.

“One way we illustrate the differences in the system to flight crews is we put one guy in a legacy system and another in the JSAM system and then order them pizza for lunch. The guy in the JSAM system can easily eat,” Sampson said. “This is important because the Warfighter has to wear these protective suits for four, six, or even eight hours at a time.”

Initially, JSAM was a single program to replace all airman masks. “The basic challenge was that we started a joint mask program for a one-solution-fits-all application, but with more than 130 different platforms, five different helmets, and a variety of air-crew equipment it becomes difficult. Over time, we have split the JSAM program into five different systems to meet the needs of the airmen across the DoD,” said Kilduff who has been a part of the program since its inception in 1999.

When JSAM created an Apache program in 2007 there were some “safe to fly” issues with the mask and hood because the field of view was not better than the legacy system. Kilduff and his



**“Imagine, the Soldier is looking at a TV monitor in one eye and flying with the other,” said Don Kilduff, the program manager for the JSAM Apache mask system. “The crosshairs for the weapon are on that camera, but along the side of the screen is also flight symbology providing the Soldier with vital information.”**

team made adjustments to the lens, completed fielding in 2009, produced the redesign to that in 2010, then finished fielding the redesign in 2012. Currently the team is working on the next iteration of the mask because the Apache helmet was redesigned. The new mask is anticipated to be fielded in 2014.

“Imagine, the Soldier is looking at a TV monitor in one eye and flying with the other. The crosshairs for the weapon are on that camera, but along the side of the screen is also flight symbology providing the Soldier with vital information. The changes to the mask optimized the Soldier’s ability to see the siting system by maximizing the field of view,” Kilduff said, explaining the lens readjustment.

For JSAM Rotary Wing, the challenges surround the need to integrate the mask for all aircrafts in all services across DoD. The services and aircraft do

not all use the same systems, which presents many integration challenges.

“In 2007 we had to re-baseline the design due to some deficiencies, for example the hood ring aperture was too large and the lens style was also providing some distortion during flight. So, we went back to the drawing board, and essentially shrank our hood ring apertures and changed out lenses,” Sampson said.

After making those changes, the team went through the requisite design, test, fix, test process. For this project that series has to be repeated for all of the services, each providing feedback based on its system. The team discovered some comfort issues with the mask’s harness design in conjunction with a particular helmet used by the Navy and Marine Corps. After some significant prototyping efforts, the mask is now reported to be sufficient to wear over an extended

period of time.

Currently, the Rotary Wing team is in the production qualification test phase, and is continuing air-worthiness testing while making slight design modifications. The mask must qualify for each aircraft for all services, which is an extensive process, especially since each service has different testing requirements.

The teams in the Protection Engineering Division have used the expertise from across ECBC to provide an improved product within a manageable budget. The teams worked with Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) Division to make rubber parts and castings to create hard rapid prototypes, which allowed the teams to perform weight, space, and compatibility assessments of the model assembly before making roughly \$20 million worth of tools.

The teams also utilized the Environmental Chambers, the Test, Reliability and Evaluation Branch’s test equipment, the QFS Chamber, and the Protective Equipment Test Branch’s SMARTMAN capabilities during their design and testing phases.

Kilduff said having all of these resources available here at ECBC is what is exceptional about ECBC--ADM: the various chambers and testing equipment are all consolidated on one campus. Kilduff explains the synergy at ECBC, “While contractors have access to these same capabilities it is hard to find the capability that ADM has all in one spot, and because they are accessible in-house we can influence prioritization more easily than industry can,” said Kilduff of the synergy.

Sampson agreed, “We have a local capability, especially at Edgewood because we get to be there hands-on and get to see it.”

The JSAM program offers a unique capability to Warfighters, to be face free and have the face plate ready within a few seconds without interfering with the helmet. Kilduff and Sampson both said that many within DoD have expressed excitement at these significant improvements and see the new design as being extremely useful in theater whenever a chemical/ biological threat is perceived.

# Fire-resistant ghillie suit and enhanced rocket fuze win DOD awards

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**  
*RDECOM*

U.S. Army program managers earned Department of Defense acquisition awards recently for rapidly fielding a fire-resistant ghillie suit and an enhanced rocket warhead.

After two Soldiers from the Army’s 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment burned to death when their camouflaged sniper gear caught on fire in Iraq, an urgent requirement for a fire-resistant suit was issued.

Neal Nguyen, the product manager for Soldier clothing and individual equipment under Program Executive Office Soldier, known as PEO Soldier, answered the request in 2010 with the help of the Defense Acquisition Challenge, or DAC, program. He was named the DAC Program Manager of the Year for 2012 for his work on the ghillie suit as well as a uniform repair patch kit and enhanced combat vehicle crewman coverall.



U.S. Army Photo

**A 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Soldier practices camouflage, cover and concealment with the fire-resistant ghillie suit during training at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in November 2012. The fire-resistant ghillie suit was acquired for U.S. Army and Marine Corps snipers in record time through the Defense Acquisition Challenge Program.**

“It’s a privilege to serve the Army and provide much-needed protective equipment to the warfighter,” Nguyen said. “The flame-resistant ghillie suit accessory kit and flame-resistant base uniform will improve the safety of those forward operators and keep the Army on the leading edge of capability and lethality.

“The Comparative Technology Office allows us the ability to lean forward and fast track capability and protection to our Soldiers who volunteer to be in harm’s way.”

Matthew West, a junior hydra project engineer with the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command’s Armament Research, or RDECOM, Development and Engineering Center, earned the Foreign Comparative Testing, or FCT, PM of the Year for 2012.

The enhanced fuze FCT project’s goal was to qualify and field a cockpit-settable fuze version of the multipurpose penetrator M282 warhead for U.S. Special Operations Command’s, or SOCOM, use on helicopters, West said. A now-retired senior hydra team leader started the project, and West took over for him.

“Over a 20-year period, the branch that I work in has completed multiple successful FCT programs based on the Carl Gustav recoilless rifle weapon system,” West said. “The FCT office, along with my branch chief’s knowledge of the SOCOM FCT program office, gave me support and guidance when taking on this task. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this capability to the Warfighter.”

RDECOM manages the DAC and FCT programs for the Army, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Comparative Technology Office oversees the

programs.

Earl Wyatt, deputy assistant secretary of defense for rapid fielding, and RDECOM Director Dale Ormond presented Nguyen and West with their awards at the Pentagon, March 20.

U.S. Air Force Col. Rodney F. Todaro, director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, or OSD, Comparative Technology Office, lauded their work in support of the warfighter.

“Mr. West’s accomplishments stood out among a very strong field of candidates,” Todaro said. “The 70mm enhanced fuse project will greatly increase the capabilities of our 70mm rockets while avoiding development, acquisition and sustainment costs, exactly what the FCT program is supposed to do.

“Mr. Nguyen’s project met a critical need in minimum time while improving capability. Significant cost savings were achieved by avoiding a large, new development program.”

**Defense Acquisition Challenge**

The DAC program was created in 2003 in response to a Congressional mandate that the DOD initiate a program that was innovative, flexible, competitive and affordable to integrate mature technologies into the acquisition cycle, said William “Randy” Everett, with RDECOM’s Global Technology Integration team. The program allows U.S. vendors to submit mature technology proposals for evaluation by the PEOs.

With a focus on small business, the DAC program has been a vehicle for small domestic vendors to transition their products to the acquisition cycle. It was funded through fiscal year 2012.

In response to requests for snipers’ ghillie suits, Source One, a small business in Florida, submitted a response. PEO Soldier sponsored the proposal.

Nguyen took on the project and collaborated with RDECOM and Source One to deliver the ghillie suit as quickly as possible. PEO Soldier received \$185,000 to purchase suits for testing. Nguyen oversaw testing and evaluation.

The project was completed in 10 months, a record time. The fire-resistant ghillie suit is now being fielded at the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., at the U.S. Marine Corps Scout Sniper School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and at the Special Operations Target Interdiction Course at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“It is unknown how many Soldiers and Marines may be saved by this, but if even one life is saved, it is money well spent,” Everett said.

Since beginning, the DAC program has saved an estimated \$375 million in DOD research and development by avoiding manufacturing, procurement and life cycle support costs. Additionally, more than 2,000 proposals have been evaluated and 130 projects have been funded from 35 states and the District of Columbia.

More than 70 percent of the awarded projects have been to American small- and medium-sized businesses, and more than 25 percent to non-traditional defense companies. Twenty-three projects have been deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Foreign Comparative Testing**

FCT’s mission is to find and evalu-

ate “here and now” solutions to meet the operational needs of American service members so that Soldiers have the technology they need to remain dominant on the battlefield and return home safely, regardless of the origin of that technology, Everett said. OSD has leveraged new and evolving technology through FCT since 1980.

The program encourages international cooperation and helps reduce overall DOD acquisition costs by funding the testing of foreign non-developmental items, commercial-off-the-shelf items, or those items in a late state of the development process that demonstrate the potential to satisfy the U.S. military’s needs.

The program has brought U.S. forces the benefit of 105 items that were tested and deployed in the last 12 years. They include enhanced body armor from Germany; a mine-clearing system from Denmark; and a bunker-busting, multi-purpose rocket warhead from Norway. Other examples include advances in lightweight body armor and lighter, longer lasting rechargeable batteries.

For West’s FCT project, he said the enhanced fuze warhead provides a capability to dial in a delay for a rocket warhead, allowing users to select where to detonate the round. Pilots had this capability 20 years ago, but it suffered from poor reliability and safety risks.

Users can engage all targets with one rocket, whether under light brush cover, in a vehicle, inside a structure or out in the open, West said. This reduces the number of rounds the user needs to fly with, which can also reduce weight.

# APG to launch centralized STEM education center

By **DAN LAFONTAINE**  
*RDECOM*

Maryland students will soon have a unified APG facility at which to explore the world of science and engineering with Army professionals.

The APG STEM Education and Outreach Center will be ready in late May, said Dr. Sandy Young, an Army Research Laboratory materials engineer. She is coordinating the project with ARL laboratory operations and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach offices on APG.

Young said the SEOC will allow multiple APG tenant organizations to pool their resources to benefit students’ experiences in science and engineering. The facility will accommodate up to 200 students.

ARL initiated the idea for the STEM center in August 2011 and began enlisting the assistance of other APG tenants in spring 2012.

“Many STEM programs have outgrown the singular concepts of individual organizations. The best way to move forward is with collaborative efforts, especially in tighter budget times,” Young said. “You want to get as many people involved with a multitude of backgrounds and have a centralized location.

“We need a place where the scientists and engineers from the labs can go over and work with the students. That’s what makes it unique. Students are



Photo by Conrad Johnson

**Harford County eighth-grade students explore science and engineering as part of the fifth annual Technology Needs Teens program at Harford Community College on May 24, 2012. The Aberdeen Proving Ground STEM Education and Outreach Center will be ready in late May 2013.**

working with Army scientists and engineers who have real-life experiences they can share.”

Renovations began on Building 4508, which was previously used for Soldier barracks, in January and are scheduled for completion by March 31. Furniture and scientific equipment will then be installed in April.

Based on the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program initiatives that APG organizations currently support, just the first floor of the three-story building is undergoing construction.

The STEM facility will house open classroom space; laboratories for computers, chemistry and biology experiments, and electronics; metal and wood shops; and a robotics staging area. The Army has equipment that is functionally similar for students to use but is less expensive than that used in real-world research laboratories.

Louie Lopez, chief of STEM education outreach at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, said the center will benefit the Army’s national and local programs that bring students into the laboratory for interaction with scientists and engineers.

“The center will further enhance our regional STEM efforts with Harford and Cecil counties and across Maryland,” Lopez said.

RDECOM provides technical oversight of AEOP and leads Team APG STEM efforts.

Army scientists and engineers confront several obstacles when they bring students to their facilities for STEM events, Young said. The issues include requiring escorting, not being able to use Wi-Fi in laboratories, and removing sensitive projects as well as chemical or biological agents and explosives.

The new SEOC will help alleviate many of these con-

cerns, she said.

“We’ve been talking for years about the issues with having students in working lab space. You want them to have real laboratory experiences, but there are hazardous chemicals and materials around because we are doing work for the Army,” Young said. “Even if you have small quantities of certain materials, which is what is allowed in a lab building, you still prefer students not to be around these materials.”

Young said she expects the center to be busy with STEM activities during the summer and on evenings and weekends during the school year. In addition to the SEOC’s primary focus on STEM education outreach, it will also have flex space available to APG organizations on a fee basis for meetings and trainings.

APG is converting Building 4503, the former Dining Facilities Administration Center, into a STEM Café that will open this summer on a limited basis for students to purchase food.

Organizations that initially contributed funding to the facility are the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Army Test and Evaluation Command; ARL; Communications Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; and Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. Other APG tenants can still contribute money toward the SEOC.